

July 10, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Downsize judges: A report from the state Supreme Court recommends cutting eight positions; the Legislature should do just that

The editorial states "Taxpayers should not pay for more government than they need. The statement applies to every level and every branch of government, from local and county to state and federal. For Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young, who has stated this many times over the past few years, these are not just idle words."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Recommendations to cut, add judgeships detailed in judicial resources report

[Press release](#)

Detroit Legal News: New grant program encourages courts to innovate, improve

"Michigan trial courts with great ideas for improving court performance and public service can get a boost from a new grant program administered by the State Court Administrative Office, the administrative agency of the Michigan Supreme Court. Grant money will be provided by the Court Performance Innovation Fund, created by the state Legislature earlier this year as part of the FY 2014 budget. SCAO opened the grant application process to the courts [Monday]."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Encouraging courts to innovate, improve service is goal of new grant program

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Michigan elections director: Duggan can be a write-in candidate

"The state's elections director says nothing bars former Detroit Medical Center CEO Mike Duggan from mounting a write-in candidacy for mayor of Detroit. State Elections Director Chris Thomas denied on Tuesday union activist Robert Davis' request to have Duggan ruled ineligible to be a write-in candidate after the Michigan Court of Appeals bounced his name from the ballot for violating the city's residency requirements for candidates."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: State: Barrow's challenge can't keep Mike Duggan from write-in campaign

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Write-in campaign sparks court rematch for Detroit mayoral candidates

[Full story](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: State: Duggan cleared for write-in campaign for Detroit mayor

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Michigan Election Director says Mike Duggan can run for Detroit mayor as write-in candidate

[Full story](#)

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: State OKs Mike Duggan as write-in candidate in Detroit mayoral race

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: State expected to move to end Ingham lawsuit over appointment of Detroit emergency manager

"The state of Michigan is expected to file a motion this week to end a lawsuit alleging Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr was appointed in violation of the Open Meetings Act. Under a Michigan Court of Appeals order issued in June, the state defendants in the case have until Thursday to file a motion for summary disposition, said Andrew Paterson, a Novi attorney representing plaintiff Robert Davis."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Pair get long prison terms for setting fire to pregnant woman, then shooting her

"Jamal Rogers and Antonio Mathis are expected to spend much of their lives in prison for setting fire to Rogers' pregnant girlfriend last year, then shooting her. Macomb County Circuit Judge Richard Caretti sentenced them Tuesday to life in prison with the possibility of parole for conspiracy to commit first-degree premeditated murder."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Life sentences for 2 men in pregnant woman attack

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Macomb County judge lambastes men in pregnant woman's burning

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Washington Township couple may lose mansion in court fight

"A Washington Township couple who have been in a court fight for the past nine years to save their 9,000-square-foot mansion from at least partial demolition face a contempt hearing Friday.... Macomb County Circuit Judge Mark Switalski is to decide on Friday whether penalties will be imposed for the couple's failure to modify the structure to meet the deed requirements."

[Full story](#)

The Allegan County News: County updates public defense pay rate

"In August, Allegan County courts will switch to a new fee structure for its pool of public defense attorneys. Instead of paying hourly rates of between \$47.50 and \$55, the court will pay attorneys flat fees based on the type of case. Allegan County Circuit Court administrator Mike Day said the change was spurred not only by recent legislative efforts to improve indigent defense but also because the current fees were so outdated."

[Full story](#)

The Allegan County News: Attorney who made law office meth lab gets jail, probation

"A Wayland attorney will spend 90 days in jail and two years on probation after admitting to maintaining a methamphetamine lab. Patrick Schuyler Burson, 45, was sentenced Tuesday, July 9, in Allegan County Circuit Court.... [Judge James] Kingsley, a Calhoun County judge, was appointed to handle the case because Burson was a longtime criminal defense attorney in Allegan County before his arrest."

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Court hears representation appeal; Attorney looking to stick with two charged in synthetic pot case

"... The [Michigan Court of Appeals] heard arguments Tuesday and there is no timetable for a decision on whether Timothy Corr can represent Melissa Dzierwa and Ronda Roszak, both of whom are charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute a synthetic marijuana product known as Gods of Aroma."

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Defending poor could be costly; Attorney says Legislature would need to spend at least \$80M yearly

"A new state law could help indigent defendants in Livingston County receive better representation, but only if the GOP-led Legislature agrees to spend at least \$80 million a year to help pay for it, local attorney Matt Evans said."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: [SBM Young Lawyers Section] Lunch

"The State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section hosted its Sixth Annual Summit luncheon at Greektown Casino & Hotel in Detroit June 8. Pictured are YLS Chair Felicia Johnson commission counsel for the Wayne County Commission and guest speaker Dennis Archer, former Michigan Supreme Court justice and Detroit mayor."

[Full story](#)

Dowagiac Daily News: Sepic appointed Berrien County [prosecuting] attorney

"Michael J. Sepic has been appointed prosecuting attorney for Berrien County by a unanimous vote of the county's Circuit Court judges. Sepic was the chief assistant prosecuting attorney in Berrien County. He succeeds Arthur J. Cotter, who resigned after being appointed a District Court judge by Gov. Rick Snyder in May."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Herald Palladium/St. Joseph: Sepic promoted to Berrien prosecutor

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Doug Van Epps recipient of the ACT 2013 Pioneer Award

"Doug Van Epps, Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution for the Michigan Supreme Court - is the recipient of the Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) Michigan Southeast Chapter 2013 Pioneer Award for his significant work and contributions to the conflict resolution field and to the Alternative Dispute Resolution community."

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Ombudsman settles into role with court

"A one year assignment has grown into at least two for attorney Joel Serlin, who in the winter of 2012 was appointed to the newly-created position of ombudsman for the Oakland County Circuit Court. "At the risk of using a cliché, it has been a true 'learning experience' for me since I assumed the role," Serlin said in reflecting upon his first 18 months on the job."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Unpaid parking fines? Grand Rapids District Court waiving ticket fees

"Grand Rapids District Court this month started waiving late fees for unpaid parking tickets and traffic infractions in an effort to collect about \$2 million in outstanding fines. People with past-due fines who pay them in full over the next three months will be exempt from \$40 default fees."

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Eagle school property back on the market

"The 2011 sale of the Eagle Elementary School site to the Islamic Cultural Association ignited controversy in the community, shed unfavorable light on Farmington Public Schools officials and spurred a lawsuit that eventually landed in the Michigan Supreme Court. Apparently, it was all for naught. The 'For Sale' sign is back."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Court of Appeals affirms conviction, sentence of man serving prison time for aggravated stalking

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has affirmed the conviction and sentence of a man who stalked his former girlfriend as she recovered from cancer surgery. Tracy Russell, 40, is serving two to five years at the Newberry Correctional Facility in the Upper Peninsula."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Switalski: Veterans have 'earned' their own court

"Macomb County Circuit Court Judge Mark S. Switalski described the work of Macomb County Veterans' Treatment Court (MCVTC) during the opening ceremony of Legal Aid and Defender Association's Veterans Legal Fair in Detroit.... MCVTC held its first scheduled court session on April 12, 2012 in 41B District Court in Clinton Township. Switalski held his first circuit court session on April 19, 2012 in Mount Clemens and currently holds sessions there every Thursday."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Street Outreach Court marks first anniversary

"Street Outreach Court Detroit (SOCD) recently hosted a 'One-Year Anniversary Celebration' at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Wayne County 36th District Court Judge Cylenthia LaToye Miller was one of the founders of the program and is proud of what it has accomplished.... SOCD was created jointly by the 36th District Court and Detroit Action Commonwealth."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Macomb County unions' lawsuit hearing adjourned

"A lawsuit pitting unions representing jail corrections officers and road workers against Macomb County was rescheduled for next Monday in front of Judge Edward Servitto in Macomb County Circuit Court. Judge Peter J. Maceroni recused himself because he says he has a personal conflict, and Judge Diane Druzinski recused herself because she says she has information regarding evidentiary facts in the case, according to online court records."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Sterling Heights cops to write electronic tickets

"Using improved technology, Sterling Heights police are now issuing traffic violations with the assistance of electronic software.... The information [regarding a traffic violation] is uploaded to the records bureau at the police department as well as the traffic division at 41-A District Court."

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Supreme Court will decide whether a governor can reverse clemency decision

"The Michigan Supreme Court has agreed to decide whether Governor Jennifer Granholm exceeded her authority when she reversed her decision to commute the life sentence of a convicted murderer. Matthew Makowski is serving a sentence of life without parole for murder and armed robbery."

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: State of Opportunity: Can Michigan make aging out of foster care easier?

"The roughly 14,000 young people in Michigan's foster care system are expected to live on their own once they turn 18, if they're still in the system at that time. It is a transition that for many, does not go well. In recognition of these bleak outcomes, there were about 200 young people ages 14 through 21 milling around a business school building at Ferris State University late last month, for the first day of a two day conference."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan medical marijuana law requires patient to be a resident, appeals court rules

"A Michigan appeals court ruled this week that the state's medical marijuana law requires cardholders to be Michigan residents, and held that immunity from prosecution under the law is a question for a judge, not a jury, to decide. The ruling came in a 2011 Berrien County case where police stopped a woman, Cynthia Cherelle Jones, who was weaving in and out of traffic."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Snyder appoints Genesee judge, assistant U.S. attorney to commissions

"Gov. Rick Snyder has reappointed Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Joseph J. Farah to the Board of Law Examiners, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell A. Kavalhuna to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission.... The Board of Law Examiners is responsible for the investigation and examination of anyone applying for admission to the State Bar. Farah's term will expire June 30, 2018."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Adult Treatment Court celebrates graduation of eight participants

"Today at 2 p.m., the Oakland County Adult Treatment Court (ATC) will hold its 35th graduation since its inception in August of 2001. The 138th through the 145th graduates will be honored with a ceremony and reception to be held in the Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium at the Oakland County Courthouse Complex located at 1200 N. Telegraph Road in Pontiac."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Former Justice Hathaway Loses Law License

"An order of disbarment of former Justice Diane Hathaway, by consent, was entered [Tuesday] from the Attorney Discipline Board Tri-County panel #22, backdated to January 29, the date her guilty plea to felony bank fraud was accepted by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: COA On Reasonable Attorney Fees In Sui Generis Cases

"From Adair v State of Michigan, released today: We begin our analysis of what constitutes a reasonable hourly rate of compensation for each of plaintiffs' attorneys by acknowledging that plaintiffs rely heavily on data generated by the State Bar pertaining to the appellate area of practice and that the special

master relies, instead, on the data pertaining to the municipal law area of practice. We also acknowledge, however, that actions to enforce the Headlee Amendment, like this one, are sui generis.”

[Full story](#)